



News Release

US Army Corps Of Engineers

Los Angeles District
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

<u>03-24</u>	<u>31 December 2003</u>	<u>Immediate</u>
Release No.	Date	For Release
<u>Jennie A. Salas</u>	<u>(213) 452-3925</u>	
Contact	publicaffairs-spl@usace.army.mil	Telephone

Corps answers call for emergency flood assistance in San Bernardino County

LOS ANGELES—Responding to a call from the state for emergency assistance to deal with the imminent threat of flooding and mudslides, the Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers said it awarded a major contract for debris clearance at Deer Creek in San Bernardino County.

The District awarded the contract after the California Dept. of Water Resources said it lacked the capacity to assist San Bernardino County with flood prevention efforts in the wake of Christmas Day rainstorms and subsequent fatal mudslides.

Under a federal emergency response law, the District was funded \$4.5 million, a portion of which was awarded to Miramar Construction, a Pomona-based heavy construction company, which began the debris removal late Monday evening. The corps will award contracts to two additional contractors to remove material from debris basins in the San Bernardino County.

Debris basins are designed to collect rocks, trees, sediment and other materials that would prevent the flood control channels from carrying their maximum floodwater capacity. "The debris basins did exactly what they are designed to do," said Ed Andrews, Los Angeles District chief of emergency operations. "The next step is to remove that debris so the basins can do their jobs the next time they are needed."

The federal funding was earmarked for sites specified by San Bernardino County director of public works, Ken Miller. Besides Deer Creek, up to 9 other basins in San Bernardino County will be included for debris removal as conditions permit.

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